[English]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

1642. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government give subsidy to the fertilizer manufacturers;

(b) if so, the percentage of the subsidy;

(c) whether the Ministry have examined the proposal to simplify the mechanism for paying the subsidy on fertilizers as well as fixing the selling price of some of the nutrients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is giving subsidy on Fertilizers under Statutory Price Control. The difference between the retention Price and the notified sale price minus the distribution margin paid as subsidy to individual manufacturing units. In addition Government of India is also giving concession on sale of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers to the farmers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A high powered fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee has been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidisation of urea and suggest a rational, Broad based, Scientific and transparent Methodology. The Committee is required to submit its report within six months.

[Translation]

Suicides Death Cases of Women

1643. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of suicides committed by women and deaths due to burning them increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the said period, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons against whom cases for instigating the women to commit suicides and burning them have been registered during this period; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Available information is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including the crime against women, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments regarding the preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures that need to be taken in connection with atrocities on women.

Statement

Information about the incidence of suicide by women in the country during the years 1993 and 1994 is given below:

Year	Number of cases
1993	34393
1994	36443

However, as the thrust of the question appears to relate to dowry deaths, relevant information in this connection is furnished below :

Year	Incidence of cases under Dowry Prohibition Act	Incidence of Dowry deaths	Number of suicide deaths due to dowry dispute	Number of persons arrested in Dowry Prohibition Act
1993	2679	5817	1486	6107
1994	2435	4935	1613	6611
1995	3172	5035	Not available	Not available

Subsidy on Foodgrains

1644. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether subsidy given by the Government for foodgrains is increasing regularly for the last few years;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given on foodgrains during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively and its estimated amount for 1996-97; and

(c) the extent to which the benefit of subsidy has been reaching to the common consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Subsidy given on foodgrains to FCI during these years is as follows :

Year	(Rs./crores)
1993-94	5537
1994-95	4509
1995-96	4960
1996-97 (RE)	5166

(c) Difference between Economic Cost and the Central Issue Price is paid to the FCI as consumer subsidy. Therefore the consumers are benefited to the extent to which they draw/get these foodgrains through P.D.S./ R.P.D.S. as such supplies are made at Central Issue Price which is lower than the Economic Cost.

[English]

Shifting of Polluting Industrial Units

1645. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of industrial units in major cities have been issued notices for shifting locations by the respective State Pollution Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of such units shifted during the last three years; and

(d) the time bound action plan formulated for shifting of the polluting industrial units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Afforestation

1646. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the State Governments to check cutting of the trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also reviewed the afforestation programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Union Government has directed to States and Union Territories, where forest cover has declined, to make an indepth analysis of factors contributing to depletion of forest cover and make all out efforts to step up afforestation programmes.

(c) and (d) National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) within the Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal agency to allocate annual targets for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme to each State and Union Territory on the basis of funds available. The annual achievements are monitored and reviewed by the NAEB as under:

(i) The annual afforestation data provided by the States/UTs are kept in the library of the Parliament and the Ministry of Environment and Forests to enable elected representatives to have a ready access to the data.

(ii) Every year 10% of the districts in the Country are selected, with appropriate regional distribution, for evaluation of the afforestation activities by autonomous institutions/NGOs/voluntary agencies/ regional centres of NAEB/retired forest officials.

Smuggling of Explosive Material

1647 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the explosive material was smuggled into the country from the ports and airports;

(b) if not, the ways and means of its entry into the country; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to prevent the smuggling of the explosive material into the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Recently there have been instances wherein arms, ammunition, explosives etc., were smuggled into the country mainly through international borders. Government is alive to the situation created by antinational elements and is taking all necessary steps to thwart the evil designs of such forces, which includes gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations and close coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

Cutting of Trees in Madhya Pradesh

1648. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are aware that trees worth lakhs of rupees have been cut down in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh in connivance with the Government officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated value of the trees cut down;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.